# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4560
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001
REDUCTION IN FERTILITY OF SOIL
RAM SHAKAL

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government are aware that the fertility of the soil is diminishing by the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers especially the urea;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to check the use of urea; and

(c) the details of the action plan formulated to promote the use of cow dung, `sanai` and compost manures?

## Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): The State Governments formulate fertilizer use recommendations according to the fertility status of the soils and requirement of crops so as to ensure that there is no indiscriminate use of fertilizers. Due to de-control of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers during 1992-93, the prices of these fertilizers had gone up with the resultant effect on their reduced consumption. This caused widening of NPK consumption ratio from 5.9:2.4:1 during 1991-92 to 9.5:3.2:1 during 1992-93. To encourage the balance in nutrient consumption, Government had implemented a scheme on Balanced & Integrated use of Fertilisers under which soil testing facilities were strengthened in the country so as to enable larger number of farmers to benefit from balanced fertilizer use according to soil test based recommendations. Preparation, promotion and use of compost was also encouraged through this scheme. Government also started implementing a scheme of ad hoc concession on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. Due to such measures, the consumption ratio of NPK during 1999-2000 was 6.9:2.7:1 which shows a significant improvement in the balanced use of fertilizers compared to 1992-93. State Governments are advised to promote the use of cow dung, green manuring, vermi compost and biofertilisers etc. as organic source of plant nutrients.